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Sen. Kuipers named Legislator of the Year by small-business group

LANSING – Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, was honored today with Small Business Association of Michigan’s Legislator of the Year award for his work on behalf of entrepreneurs.

“I’m honored to be recognized for my work in pushing Michigan to improve its economic climate,” Kuipers said. “Without small-business owners expanding their companies, our state would be in even worse economic shape. It’s the entrepreneurs of today who are creating the businesses and jobs that will power our state’s economy of tomorrow.”

Before being elected the Legislature, Kuipers worked at small businesses in Ottawa County.

The Small Business Association of Michigan is a statewide trade association of small businesses. It promotes free enterprise and other common interests of small businesses in Michigan.

“Senator Kuiper’s private sector experience was in small business and he has proved that his roots came with him to the Legislature,” said Jan Roncelli, owner of Bermar Associates Inc. of Troy and incoming 2005-2006 chair of the board of directors for the Small Business Association of Michigan. “He serves on several key committees and has been a tireless leader for the small business community. He consistently votes favorably for small business issues. For example, in the most recent legislative session, Senator Kuipers garnered a 100 percent SBAM voting record on roll call votes important to small business. But what is most significant is that he is the only legislator in the House or Senate who attained this stellar 100 percent rating during that legislative session.”

Earlier this year, Kuipers was awarded the President’s Award from the Michigan Parents, Teachers and Students Association for leading the effort to change the state’s testing program for high-school students. The senator also has been honored previously by the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

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Note: Photos of Kuipers receiving the award are available online at
senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Kuipers/Kuipers.htm.